



# *The Blurb*



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club*

**64 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2013**

Volume 64 Number 4

[www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

April 2013



**This is the newest head gear in the amateur universe.**

**It will be required for all club functions.**

**A weatherproof model will be available before Field Day.**

**To order yours send your IQ size along with a blank check to your editor.**

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Welcome to new PMRC member Michelle London - KB3MTW  
See you on the air!

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**This news from Sunbury, PA on March 16:** For those interested, I just worked New Zealand (ZL2BPT) on 24.980 @ 20:10 local time, using 100 watts and an 80 meter dipole strung up in a tall tree. (Thanks Bill!) It's snowing, maybe that helped. 73, Fred/KA3IRJ *Well done old man!*

<p><i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <b>Copying and quoting</b> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.</p> <p>Requests should be sent to the Editor.</p> <p><b>Subscriptions</b> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p><b>Editor:</b> Rick DeVirgiliis <b>ND3B</b> nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225</p> <p><b>Labels and mailing:</b> <b>KB3IV</b></p> <p><b>Submissions deadline:</b> All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>		<p><b>Directors:</b></p> <p><b>WU3I (14)</b> <b>KB3SJS(14)</b> <b>KB3MIV(14)</b> <b>WA3KIO(13)</b> <b>N3QV(13)</b> <b>K3GBA(13)</b> <b>W3AOK(A)</b></p>	<p><b>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88</b> <b>Abington, PA 19001</b> <a href="http://www.phil-mont.org">http://www.phil-mont.org</a> Website: Eric N3QV &amp; Andrew KC2PMW</p> <p><b>For club information:</b> Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV</p>
		<p><b>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2 Meter/ 70cm Net</b>..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater</li> <li>• <b>10-on-10 Net</b> ..... at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)</li> <li>• <b>75 meter Net</b> ..... at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB</li> <li>• <b>ARES</b> at 2100L on the W3QV repeater</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Committees</b></p> <p>Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV &amp; N3GLU Directory: KB3IV</p>	<p>DX: N3MT Emerg.Coor: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV &amp; KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE</p>	<p>Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK</p>	<p>Scholarship: W3RM Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW</p>

***All visitors are welcome!***

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128  
Maps and directions are available at [www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org).

**License Examinations** are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**  
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or [jmccloskey@msn.com](mailto:jmccloskey@msn.com) for the latest information.

**Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System**  
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**  
**147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz**  
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R  
**W3AA Trustee: WU3I**  
**W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV**

***The Officers***

**Pres:** KB2ERL Bob Nicotera [bnic1903@msn.com](mailto:bnic1903@msn.com)  
**Vice Pres:** W3STW Al Tribble [wstw@juno.com](mailto:wstw@juno.com)  
**Sec:** ND3B Rick Devirgiliis [nd3b@arrl.net](mailto:nd3b@arrl.net)  
**Treas:** W3RM Richard A. Moll [roger.mike@verizon.net](mailto:roger.mike@verizon.net)  
**Asst. Treas:** N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli [michaelmt\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com)

***The Prez Sez ...***

Well, here comes April. While I'm writing this the national weather service is trying to determine whether or not we'll get snow and how much. By the time you are reading this we will have been done with whatever Mother Nature sent us.

On another note the other day I was just thinking how amazing our hobby really is; did you ever stop and think about what really goes on when you push the mike button to talk to one of your friends on our repeater? This is a condensed version but here goes; the voice vibrations are picked up by the mike element, converted into electrical energy which is then sent thru various sections in the radio, changed into RF energy which then is passed thru the coax and ultimately out the antenna into the air at a specific frequency. That energy is then picked up by the receiver of the repeater passed over to the transmitter and retransmitted back out on the repeater frequency.

Now that signal is picked up by our receivers tuned to the proper frequency and the conversion process begins again sort of in reverse converting the energy thru various processes again, thru the speaker and ultimately to our ears as the sound vibrations which were first spoken into the mike. It's an amazing journey and the wonder of the Phil-Mont radio system; think about that the next time you use the repeater.

Ok, just a few reminders about upcoming events. First is the Timonium Hamfest April 6th, remember it's only a one day event. Next is the Phil-Mont meeting April 10th, then at the end of the month

starts the MS walks.

A reminder about field day this year: if you are going to participate our band coordinator is John KB3SJS. Let him know what band you would like to participate in.

And finally don't forget about the digital net on Tuesday evenings at 730 on the repeater.

Well that's it for now, stay well, hope to see you at the meeting!

73 Bob, KB2ERL

***Phil-Mont  
Birthdays & Tidbytes***

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

05 Rob Moore – N2RM

06 Andrew Furlong KC2PMW

08 Jackie Chedeville (XYL W3GQD)

13 Michaela Uebelhoer KB3UFY

15 Joan Clifford (XYL W3UY)

Mai-Lin (XYL N3BKR)

21 Michael Vincent N3TOX

22 Susan Hoch (XYL W3UI)

28 Gwen Patton - NG3P

30 Al Kaufmann - K3ZMJ

**MEMBERSHIP STATS**

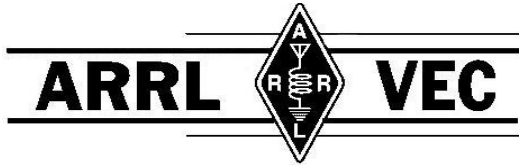
At press time P.M.R.C. has:

84 FULL PAID MEMBERS

10 FAMILY MEMBERS

2 YOUTH MEMBERS (under 17)

1 HONORARY MEMBER



*The Thursday evening session is on the  
25th this month.*

*As always, many thanks to our VE team!*

former Vice President of the New York Times news paper Mr. Howard Bishow. Mr. Bishow presented a talk on how the electronic news media has impacted circulation and reading of the "Times," there was a question and answer session after the talk. The Club thanks Mr. Bishow for his very informative and interesting talk.

*de Al, w3stw  
thanks Al!*

## *From the Secretary...*

### *General Meeting, March 13, 2013*

Club President Bob, KB2ERL, called the meeting to order at 1945, he thanked the visitors and members for coming to the meeting and called for committee reports. Bob began the proceeding with the announcement that John, KB3SJS, is the Field Day Chairman for June 2013. In that capacity he will be coordinating the various band captains; for starters John announced he is the 20 meter band captain. Please read your Blurb and listen to the Club's repeater for contact information.

Ed, KB3IV, net control chairman says the Sunday morning nets are performing well especially since Fred; KB3IRJ has been net control for the Sunday morning 75 meter net. Ed tells us that the April, 2013 Blurb will be mailed to you in an envelope; this should cut down on the damage done to the Blurb during the mail process. Steve, WU3I, membership chairman, reports the BoD approved the application for membership from Michelle London, KB3MTW and also thanked the visitors for coming to the meeting: congratulations Michelle. Vice President and program chairman Al, W3STW, says that in recognition of the Club's contact with the space shuttle STS 56 in April 1993 the program for April, 2013 will feature the Club's involvement in events that took place that day, via a DVD edited and presented by Bill, W3AOK.

At 2015 hours having received all committee reports Bob turned the meeting over to Al for introduction of the night's program. Al introduced

### *Board of Directors meeting, March 6, 2013*

In attendance were W3AOK, KB2ERL, KB3SJS, W3STW, WA3KIO, WU3I, ND3B and KB3IV. President Bob, KB2ERL opened the meeting at 20:05 and the first order of business was a unanimous vote to accept the member application of Michele, KB3MTW. Welcome to Phil-Mont Michele!

W3AOK reports situation normal with repeaters and paint job is still needed.

Field Day reservations have been made for sites A and B same as last year.

WU3I states he is ready for the onslaught of hungry hams and will handle them with his usual panache. Since Carmen is unavailable a FD coordinator is needed and John, KB3SJS stepped up to the challenge. He will also be band captain on 20M. VP Al, W3STW has arranged a terrific schedule of presentations for meetings thru June but still has openings for the fall months.

It was noted that it is difficult for Gene, XKE to handle new member items such as badges and certificates and a substitute be found to fill his duties for now.

Several directors are interested in updating and reproducing club by laws and will look into doing so.

The meeting ended at 21:50.

*de Rick, ND3B*



## **THIS AND THAT**

### **Miscellaneous Ramblings**

**Bob Thomas, W3NE**



*Professor Bob, W3NE*

## **TOTAL STATION AUTOMATION**

### **The ultimate amateur radio station**

An innovative product has been announced that is destined to revolutionize amateur radio operation, especially DXing. Two hams, formerly lead researchers at Strayer University's acclaimed Department of Imitation Intelligence, issued a press release this week describing an integrated hardware/software package that will be shown for the first time at the Dayton Hamvention in May. Their product has been thoroughly beta-tested and optimized over the past year at internationally known DX stations in the U.S., Finland, and Japan.

Dubbed *AutoStation*<sup>TM</sup> the package literally takes control of your station's HF transceiver, beam, and logging program. In its most elementary configuration, *AutoStation* continually scans a band (or several bands), listening for potential contacts. If desired, the beam will be rotated at five degrees per second over a selected azimuth range to ensure optimum coverage of all geographic directions. When the system detects an opportunity for initiating a QSO, receiver scanning and antenna rotation stop, the station log is checked to avoid duplicate contacts, and then the transmitter is activated in the same mode as the received signal to make an automated return call. Several user presets

are available, as described later, to select preferences for prioritizing contacts and beam orientation. If contact is established, applicable information is transmitted and the contents of subsequent replies are stored in flash memory for analysis by an imitation intelligence algorithm that then synthesizes an appropriate reply for each return transmission. At the conclusion of the QSO, log entries are recorded and a QSL card is printed and addressed.

Systems will be manufactured in modular form so the most ambitious hams will be able to simultaneously scan several of the nine available HF ham bands. Of course individual antennas are required for each band and consideration has to be given to avoidance of cross-band interference by appropriate filtering and time-sharing of reception and transmission; embedded software automatically takes care of that.

Operation of a preprogrammed *AutoStation* is initiated by pressing a single START button. In a multi-band system, a separate SDR then scans its assigned band, watching for preset criteria. Those criteria might be a prefix not yet worked or more specifically, for call signs needed to achieve worked all continents, countries, states, islands, zones or whatever other award is being sought. Furthermore, each one of those searches can be further weighted according to the station owner's priorities, such as obtaining a DXCC award or special events certificates. The system will continue to run for a preset time or indefinitely, completely unattended, while the owner sleeps, travels, or works at his job.

Effectiveness of *AutoStation* was demonstrated dramatically during beta testing in Finland by Jukka Mäkäläinen, OH4JM whose rig, running under *AutoStation* control, acquired a four-band DXCC on 40, 20, 15 and 17 meter CW in only eleven hours using the system's multiband priority mode. In that mode OH4JM's single SDR and antennas rapidly switched for a single scan of all nine HF ham bands to determine relative activity. Then the most active bands were scrutinized for unworked call signs to fulfill Jukka's DXCC criteria. The feat could have been accomplished in even less time had Jukka's station been equipped with more than one SDR.

Similar beta operation in the U.S. and Japan obtained comparable results for WAS (in four hours by WF6FF on 80, 40, and 20 SSB) and WAZ (in five hours by JA7T on 40, 30, and 20 CW).

As powerful as *AutoStation* may be for control functions, the heart of the system's versatility is its multi-language voice synthesizer/translator which enables automatic worldwide phone contacts in the language of the called station! In a one-time setup routine, the operator clearly enunciates 178 training words in his native language for voice analysis. He then reads three short paragraphs in one of the twelve languages that can be displayed on a monitor to support accurate synthesis of his personal vocalization traits, word spacing and end-of-paragraph intonation. After the user's unique characteristic parameters have been stored, the program will reproduce the operator's speech with uncanny realism, totally devoid of the typical artificial "computer voice" associated with synthesizers until now. The system responds equally well for YL operators.

The speech synthesizer is essentially non-language specific, i.e., a person of any nationality may speak the training words and paragraphs in one of the supported languages, and after they have been learned by the computer, the operator's voice may later be automatically translated into any one of the other languages to reply in the language of a calling station. Logs are kept in English by default, although there is an option for six other languages and character sets if desired. Twelve available languages, implemented in software by *Rosetta Stone* on a subcontract, include English, French, Italian, German, Russian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Cantonese, Mandarin, Urdu and Farsi. Any of those languages can be translated to any other by *AutoStation*! Latency (delay) in the translation process is less than 20 milliseconds. The synthesizer/translator will be marketed as a standalone product for use in conventional amateur radio applications and in international commerce.

Four CW "fists" can be preset in one of five characteristics: Perfect, Average, Extra Dots, Banana Boat Swing, and Great Lakes Swing. Transmitted CW Speed automatically mimics the

contacted station or it may be preset for a CQ or other blind transmission to any speed from 5 to 65 wpm. Correct prosigns are automatically inserted and reply messages are automatically composed by a complex algorithm based on information received from the station worked. *AutoStation*'s CW message synthesis is so realistic that several CW QSOs made during beta testing ran totally automated for five minutes before the operator on the other end realized there was no human operator at our key!

Only salient capabilities of *AutoStation* can be described in the space available here. Photos of the system are not currently available because the design has not been finalized. By the time the product is released in June several refinements and over sixteen additional features will have been incorporated. Formal announcement will be by a 10-page ad campaign in the June issue of QST. It will be interesting to see how fully automated QSOs finally displace what are now very often little more than "human-automated" contacts, where exaggerated signal reports, bland chit-chat, and boring repetitions have become the mindless time killers we all tolerate.

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***And that concludes our April edition for this year! If you enjoyed reading it half as much as I enjoyed editing it, then I had twice the fun!***

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### ***Have you heard about D-Star?***

Philadelphia Digital Radio Assn meets the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Community Ambulance Assn 1440 East Butler Pike Ambler, Pa. 19002 at 7:00 pm.

The club has two D-star repeaters on the following frequencies: On two meters - 146.61 (-) and on 70 cm 445.18125 (-)

I run a weekly club D-star net on Mondays at 8:00 pm local time on the club 2 meter frequency.

*de Jim, NS3K*

***Check out this rope for your antenna project –***

***3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord***

***This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!***

***This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.***

***PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET***

***SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS***

***CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT WU3I@ARRL.NET***

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***PRINTER TONER FOR SAMSUNG CLP 300 AND COMPATIBLES. NOT OEM.***

***2 BLACK 1 YELLOW 1 MAGENTA. 40.00 SHIPPING INCLUDED***

***Stephen Hoch WU3I Steve wu3i@arrl.net  
CELL 2156056074***

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***For Sale :***

***Heathkit SB220 linear amplifier  
excellent condition low hours  
\$650.00 contact Frank KB2AYS at  
609-312-9392 (de Bob, ERL)***

***An interesting event from  
Doug, WA3DSP***

***The Southeastern Pennsylvania Cold War  
Historical Society proudly announces  
The Spring 2013 "History in Our Backyard"  
Lecture Series The Fuge/ 780 Falcon Circle/  
Warminster, PA 18974***

***Events are open to the general public / Doors open  
at 7:00pm Lectures begin promptly at 7:30pm***

***ColdWarHistory.org RentTheFuge.com***

***March 12 Sonobuoys - The Underwater Ears of  
NADC Art Horbach***

***April 9 In the Shadow of the Hindu Kish -  
A-10 Missions Over Afghanistan Greg Marston***

***May 14 Johnsville's Role in Project Mercury Don  
Morway***

***Our thanks to Doug Crompton, WA3DSP***

***Contact him with questions: doug@crompton.com***

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***Warminster Hamfest***

***Sun May 5<sup>th</sup>***

***Middletown Grange Fair Grounds  
Wrightstown, Bucks County***

***For details go to: [www.k3dn.org/hamfest.htm](http://www.k3dn.org/hamfest.htm)***

***Or contact Rich Luce, 215-703-8264***

***March at Phil-Mont****1 Mon April Fools!**7 Sun N3OWM NCS**14 Sun KA3IRJ NCS**15 Mon IRS wants you!**21 Sun KB3IV NCS**25 Thurs VE session**28 Sun K3XS NCS*

***Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and  
the Digital net on Tuesday nights.***

**So what else happened in April?**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> First *documented* Ice Cream Sundae 1892
- 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. entered WWI 1917
- N. Pole discovered 1898
- 15<sup>th</sup> Leonardo Da Vinci born 1452
- Titanic sunk 1912
- 18<sup>th</sup> Paul Revere's ride 1775
- San Francisco earthquake 1906
- Pet Owner's Day
- 22 Earth day
- 23 Shakespeare born 1564
- 25 Hubble launched 1990
- World Penguin Day
- 30 Honesty Day (truly!)

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***First Class Mail***

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc  
1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976

*The Blurb*